

Attachment B: Byzantine Empire, Growth and Expansion Class Notes

Growth of the Byzantine Empire

- Constantinople
 - Protection of eastern frontier
 - Easily fortified site on a peninsula bordering a natural harbor
 - Away from Germanic invasions, which plagued western Roman Empire
 - Close to major trade routes
 - Seat of power until Ottoman Conquest in 1453
- Crossroads of Trade
 - Goods are coming from Europe, Asia, and Africa
 - Silk and paper industry is thriving.
 - Taxes on trade and industry provide money for government
- Cultural melting pot (Roman law, Greek culture, and Orthodox Christianity)

Age of Justinian

- Code of Justinian
 - Codification of Roman law
 - Influence on European law codes
- Conquest of former Roman territories
- Expansion of Trade
- Public Works – Building of Hagia Sophia

Byzantine Christianity

- Differences between east and west lead to division.
- Great Schism occurs in 1054 and permanently divides Christian church.